

I N S h a p E

Story and Photos by Andrew Stamer

Looming in the distance on Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Germany, a new physical fitness center is taking shape.

Located next to the dining facility and behind the 1st Armored Division's parade field, the new center is a completed shell, with its other working parts being installed on the inside.

Construction on this \$18-million facility is being managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District, and 60 percent has been completed to date.

Europe District has been working closely with Morale, Welfare and Recreation to produce the high-quality facility for the Wiesbaden community.

"They are thrilled to move into this new facility," said Dieter Schwaenen, project engineer, Europe District, which is moving along right on schedule and should be handed over for the communities use around April of next year.

Working conjunctively with MWR, the U.S. Army Garrison, Wiesbaden, the German safety management and HBM has produced great results, said Schwaenen. It has helped the project move along in a safe, timely manner that will lead to an overall high-quality fitness center that the community can enjoy.

"Our Soldiers, family members and civilian workforce routinely rate fitness as a priority in maintaining their well-being. They deserve excellence for health, training and self development," said Russell Hall, regional director, Installation Management Agency-Europe.

The new gym will have many amenities to serve the community including a double-wide basketball court with bleachers for 2,000 spectators, racquetball courts, a three-lane indoor running track, and weight lifting and aerobic exercise equipment room. Other additions will include a boxing ring, men's and women's saunas, a rock-climbing wall, and a stage for performances.

"It's very satisfying to fulfill a need you can see because we work and live in the same area," said George Van Cook, resident engineer, Europe District. "We're going to have an outstanding, state-of-the-art facility and that by itself is extremely satisfying."





Clockwise from above: A contractor uses a hydraulic cherry picker to inspect the roof beams. Sparks fly as a contractor cuts through a metal pipe. Tim Anderson, quality assurance representative, talks with the contractor about maintaining good quality and safety practices. Dieter Schwaenen, project engineer, points out the new physical fitness center to Stan Gembicki, chief of engineering, Baltimore District, during a visit to Europe District. A contractor welds support beams as the roof is being set into place.

